

Today's News - Tuesday, October 4, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Wells' take on BIG's Urban Rigger - shipping containers as student housing now floating in Copenhagen's harbor. "an original, joyful, and genuinely functional project."
- Kimmelman pens an eloquent intro to Chakrabarti's explanation of his plan to repurpose Madison Square Garden for a functional (and uplifting!) Penn Station (now there's a thought).
- Giovannini talks to Schumacher re: "building Hadid's bold afterlife" and her still-spectacular "posthumous career" ("There are headwinds").
- Wainwright introduces a new Guardian Cities series focusing on the global problem of gentrification: "It's time we found a better solution." + Gentrification and regeneration reports from around the world (even Hollywood).
- White's witty - but serious - take on the Edmonton vs. Calgary design wars and their architectural swaggering that's well worth watching, but both cities still have "to contend with a whole lot of ugly."
- Architects in Birmingham, U.K., "predict a work surge" from a £2bn deal with a Chinese developer, but they're also wary of the risks.
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of two city council members: "Here come the suburbanizers" who propose turning Philly's "tight rowhouse blocks into a 21st-century crabgrass frontier.
- Edelson parses the future of micro-living: does it offer "new, sorely needed housing options or a raw deal? California may offer some insight."
- Bernstein talks to Susan Eisenhower about what moved the family to accept going forward with Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: it was "a compromise that makes us very happy" (but Shubow remains unconvinced).
- Researchers take a close look at the new technology on show in Foster's Masdar City: though "there is still room for improvement," it should still inspire other cities to "become more robust, resilient and sustainable in the face of global challenges."
- Stinson delves into how some of the "world's coolest buildings begin as the world's coolest models" (very cool).
- Hadid and BIG are among the six worthy winners of the 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture (great presentations).
- Three winners named in the National Science and Innovation Centre of Lithuania (a.k.a. Science Island) competition.
- Plan to spend time with AIA's 2016 I Look Up Film Challenge winners!
- Call for entries: Toronto's Winter Stations 2017 International Design Competition + Nka Foundation 2017 Land Art Competition for 20 public art proposals for the Abetenim Arts Village in Ghana.

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BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group: Urban Rigger, Copenhagen, Denmark: ...a low-cost, modular housing system that can be altered, replicated and floated. If BIG have their way, Copenhagen's harbor will soon be dense with floating shipping containers hosting young academics...an original, joyful, and genuinely functional project. By Benjamin Wells [images]

Penn Station Reborn: Decades ago, New York lost one of its grand entryways. What if a new one were hiding in plain sight? ...Chakrabarti...explains his plan in detail...As with other big infrastructure proposals by the governor, design doesn't seem to be his top priority...PAU's doesn't envision demolishing [Madison Square Garden] but repurposing it... By Michael Kimmelman -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Vishaan Chakrabarti/Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU) [images]- New York Times

Building Zaha Hadid's Bold Afterlife: ...nearly six months after [her] sudden death at 65, one of her boldest buildings, Port House, opened in a ceremony on the newly christened Zaha Hadid Square in Antwerp...high-C moment signaled...the start of a posthumous career that promises to deliver nearly 50 more structures - as many buildings as were created in her lifetime...There are headwinds. By Joseph Giovannini -- Patrik Schumacher/Zaha Hadid Architects [images]- New York Times

Gentrification is a global problem. It's time we found a better solution: First come the artists, then the cranes. As the kamikaze pilots of urban renewal, wherever the creatives go, developers will follow, rents will rise, the artists will move on, and the pre-existing community will be kicked out with them...Gentrification is a slippery and divisive word, vilified by many...praised by others... By Oliver Wainwright -- Richard Florida; Richard Rogers- Guardian (UK)

Gentrified world: No bling in the hood: Does Berlin's anti-gentrification law really work? + From Notting Hill to Poltergeist: how Hollywood handles gentrification + The last battle for Brooklyn, America's most unaffordable place to buy a home + Regeneration should be for all': will change in Johannesburg benefit its poorest residents? etc.- Guardian (UK)

Design wars: It's Edmonton vs. Calgary for the architectural cup: Oh yeah? I see you your Alberta Museum, and raise you the Bell Music Centre! Cowtown got the moniker of Canada's "Nowtown" while Edmonton became "Deadmonton." For a while, we almost felt sorry for them. Almost. But the tides turned...But both cities are still having to contend with a whole lot of ugly. By Richard White -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; SOM; Snohetta; Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; Randall Stout [images]- CBC news (Canada)

Architects predict work surge from Birmingham's £2bn China pact: A deal struck [with] developer Country Garden will bring new opportunities but also carry risks: Their main concern was the extent to which the vision for rapid delivery could be woven in with city's existing fabric..."you have to get the rules of engagement very clear from the start. Investment is good, but it has to come with a strong place-making ambition." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

City Council's Clarke and Blackwell push outdated proposal to turn Philadelphia into suburbia: Watch out...Here come the suburbanizers...Planning Commission has so far held firm against their proposals to turn...tight rowhouse blocks into a 21st-century crabgrass frontier..Should the duo get their way, this outdated philosophy could derail the dramatic progress Philadelphia has made in revitalizing its core neighborhoods. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Micro-Scope: Are micro-apartments a revolutionary trend? Or are developers exploiting an out-of-control market? Will New Yorkers get new, sorely needed housing options or a raw deal? ...there is a fundamental economic formula that makes them appealing for developers...There's also the unpredictable law of supply and demand...California may offer some insight...the exploration of micro-apartments' future is just beginning. By Zach Edelson -- nARCHITECTS; David Baker Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Former Secretary of State Negotiates Compromise to Move Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial Forward: Susan Eisenhower and her three siblings agreed to retain the centerpiece...to which they had once objected: a 440-foot wide stainless steel tapestry. But it will now feature...the D-Day landing sites in Normandy, France, as they appear today..."a compromise that makes us very happy." By Fred A. Bernstein -- Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society - Architectural Record

Welcome to Masdar City: the ultimate experiment in sustainable urban living: As part of a recent study, my colleagues and I took a closer look at the new technology on show...Here's what we found...Despite Masdar's many successes, there is still room for improvement...[it] will continue to provide other cities...with inspiration to help them become more robust, resilient and sustainable in the face of global challenges. By Susan Lee -- Foster + Partners - The Conversation

The World's Coolest Buildings Begin as the World's Coolest Models: Translating an architect's grand vision into a table-top model is more technically challenging than you might expect: "We try to make the models look better than the building ever will"...The tradeoff...is that it's hard to shake the habit of seeing in miniature. By Liz Stinson -- Scott Harrington/Model Shop [images]- Wired

2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture recipients announced: Awards identify and encourage building concepts that successfully addressed the needs and aspirations of communities in which Muslims have a significant presence. -- Marina Tabassum; Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury/URBANA; ZAO/standardarchitecture/Zhang Ke; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group/Topotek 1/Superflex; Diba Tensile Architecture/Leila Araghian/Alireza Behzadi; Zaha Hadid Architects [images]- Aga Khan Development Network

Three Winners of the Science Island International Design Contest Announced: €25M National Science and Innovation Centre of Lithuania in Kaunas...anticipates construction will begin in 2017... -- SMAR Architecture Studio (Australia & Spain); SimpsonHaugh and Partners (United Kingdom); Donghua Chen Studio (China) [images]- Malcolm Reading Consultants / Kaunas City Municipality

Inclusive design wins big in 2016 I Look Up Film Challenge: AIA announced three top-prize winners during the Architecture and Design Film Festival in New York. Participants only had a month to team up, find a story, and create a short film that responded to the open-ended prompt of "demonstrating architecture as a solution." -- "ARCH 335: Rebuilding Medcamps"; "20x10"; "Build Back Better" [videos]- Bustler

Call for entries: Winter Stations 2017 International Design Competition: "Catalyst": temporary public art installations & lifeguard stands for Toronto's The Beaches; no entry fee; honorarium + travel and accommodation allowance; deadline: November 4- Winter Stations (Toronto, Canada)

Call for entries: Nka Foundation's 2017 Land Art Competition (international): 20 large-scale, site-specific public art proposals will be selected to become a part of the Abetenim Arts Village in Ghana; cash prizes; registration deadline: January 31, 2017 (submissions due February 15, 2017)- Nka Foundation

ANN feature: Call for Entries: Green Skyline - Country Garden - Forest City Landmark Architecture International Design Competition: Seeking a green skyline for a new and sustainable smart city in Malaysia. Registration deadline: October 15- ArchNewsNow.com

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